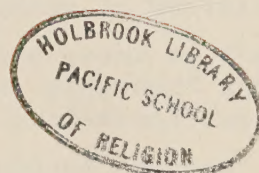


# ECUMENICAL PRESS SERVICE

Published under the auspices of the : World Council of Churches · International Missionary Council  
World Alliance of Young Men's Christian Associations · World Young Women's Christian Association  
World's Student Christian Federation · World Council of Christian Education · United Bible Societies

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No. 19/28th Year



19th May, 1961

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## Roman Catholics Stress Unity Advances

(Garrison, N.Y.) - "Definite progress" and "very rapidly growing concern" for creating new understanding between the Roman Catholic Church and the World Council of Churches has been reported at a meeting of some 250 ranking Roman Catholic theologians.

They met at a first and unofficial Conference on Christian Unity held at the Graymoor Friars' Seminary here. Every major US Catholic religious order was represented at the three-day session.

Theme of the meeting was the new frontier - spiritual rather than doctrinal - opening in the movement of the churches towards unity.

Several of the theologians interviewed, according to a report in the New York Herald Tribune, were "very hopeful that the day is not far off when they can form a 'common front' with Protestant and Eastern Orthodox theologians against the harsh advances of secularism".

Three of those interviewed expressed hope that the bid of the Russian Orthodox Church to join the World Council of Churches will strengthen the Council by bringing to it the prayers and resources of the millions of believers in the Soviet Union.





The Rev. Gustave Weigel, S.J., of Woodstock, (Md.), College, declared: "We notice in the last three or four years a very rapidly growing concern for real ecumenical confrontation".

Father Weigel said that the object of conversations between Protestant and Roman Catholic ecumenists is "not convert making" but "mutual understanding...the removal of ignorance and misconception". The "high hope" is that "the Spirit will move the churches toward organic unity". He added that it is a matter of "very great urgency" because "the world is not only secular, but unfortunately it is secularistic... This secularism is booming and is more and more pronounced in deciding the fates of men."

The Rev. Bernard Leeming, S.J., professor of dogma at Heythrop College, Oxford, England, cited "a very definite progress" and a new "feeling of friendliness and brotherhood" between Protestant and Catholic leaders.

Father Leeming said that "a tremendous advance" was made last August in St. Andrews, Scotland, when the World Council of Churches' Central Committee received a far-reaching report of its Faith and Order Commission calling for greater mutual recognition and closer working relations at the local level.

Father Leeming said other signposts towards unity are Protestant-Catholic exchanges in Scripture study and liturgy and the summoning of the Second Vatican (Ecumenical) Council by Pope John XXIII.

The Rt. Rev. J.G.M. Willebrands, of the Netherlands, secretary of the Catholic Secretariat for the Union of Christendom, said that the presence of the Russian Orthodox Church in the World Council could be a means of fostering Christian unity because it would enable the WCC and its member churches better to evaluate "all the great elements of the Orthodox ..."

Father Charles Boyer, S.J., of Rome, president of the Unitas Association and editor of the ecumenical publication Unitas, in one of the meeting's major speeches advised his fellow-theologians that in ecumenical encounters they should "keep close to the historical truth on persons and deeds of the past and the present" and "judge with kindness the writings of our separated brethren (and) enter into dialogue and conferences with full objectivity..."

EPS, Geneva


#### House of Lords Debates Archbishop's Visit to Rome

(London) - A resolution welcoming the "recent consultations between leaders of the Christian churches" has received warm approval in a debate in the House of Lords.

The resolution, introduced by the Earl of Arran, an Anglican, received criticism from only one speaker - Viscount Alexander of Hillsborough, a prominent Baptist, who scored what he described as "a steady drift to Rome by the Church of England during the past four or five decades".

His criticism evoked spirited intervention from the Archbishop of Canterbury who said he believed his recent visit with Pope John XXIII had helped to clear a way for open discussion between the Anglican and Roman Catholic churches. For a long time, he said, there had been "furtive" discussions between theologians of the two churches, but now that period was past and they were ready to let the whole world know that they wanted to go on having discussions at all levels.





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He acknowledged that doctrinal differences are "deep and divisive" but denied that they were unbridgeable. "Honest differences never are", he declared.

The Archbishop, who was making his last appearance before the House before his retirement, was supported by several other speakers. The Bishop of Southwell described the visit to Rome as "the first step towards healing the most sensitive and dangerous wound in Christendom". Lord Ferrier said that earnestly thinking people realized the need for Christians to stand shoulder to shoulder against the powers of darkness and therefore there is an urgent necessity for closing the chasm between the churches.

Lord Longford, a Roman Catholic, said: "I can think of no initiative of recent years which filled me personally and many others with so much enthusiasm and hope".

The debate lasted several hours. It was the first time in many years that a religious question had received such a lengthy examination by the House.

The Earl of Arran's motive in proposing the motion was merely to get the subject discussed in the House of Lords. This having been achieved, a customary practice of the House was followed and the motion was withdrawn without vote.

EPS, Geneva

#### WCC Appeals for Aid for Friendly Islands

(Geneva) - The World Council of Churches has appealed to its members to help the Friendly Islands, devastated by a hurricane which raged for 36 hours.

The islands are also known as Tonga and are ruled by Queen Salote, whose beaming face was pictured in the newspapers of the world when she went to London for the Coronation of Queen Elizabeth II. Like many of her subjects, she is a Methodist.

Bishop Lesslie Newbigin, executive secretary of the International Missionary Council, who is now journeying in the South Seas, has informed the World Council that the damage done to church buildings and properties by the hurricane has been very great in relation to the resources of the Methodist Church in Tonga.

Reports that Bishop Newbigin has forwarded to Geneva say that on Vav'u, one of the principal groups of islands, only five of the 38 church buildings are still standing.

"Five of the six primary schools have been destroyed and the sixth is seriously damaged", says his report. "Three ministers' houses have been destroyed and others damaged. A large number of teachers' houses have been destroyed."

On Ha'apai, another group, six church buildings have been blown down and two others badly damaged. Four primary schools and three teachers' houses have been damaged.

It is estimated that at least £300,000 (\$900,000) will be needed for repairs and rebuilding.





Food supplies are being sent in from the southern part of the group and from Fiji, Australia, and New Zealand. A famine is not expected, but the restoration of buildings and the replacement of personal property that has been lost will be difficult.

Rebuilding in the native style will be handicapped by the damage done to the coconut palms which provide the chief building material.

Tonga, or the Friendly Islands, has a population of 60,000. About half of them are Methodists, 10,000 belong to the Free Church, and 6,000 to the Church of Tonga. About 8,000 are Roman Catholics.

There are 150 islands in the archipelago, which is situated in the South-West Pacific. EPS, Geneva

#### Italian Methodists Ask Independence

(Rome) - The National Synod of the Italian Methodist Church has asked the British Methodist Conference for permission to become an independent Conference.

The action came just 100 years after the beginning of Methodist work in Italy at the Synod's six-day centenary meeting last week. Some 70 delegates from all over Italy attended the historic session, which was followed by a two-day celebration highlighted by services of praise and thanksgiving. There were also celebrations of the centenary at Ivrea in northern Italy where the British missionary Henry Piggott first started his work in 1861. EPS, Geneva

#### Electors Fail to Agree on New Bishop of Johannesburg

(Johannesburg) - The elective assembly of the diocese of Johannesburg met for eleven hours last week in secret session, but failed to agree on a successor to the Rt. Rev. Ambrose Reeves, former Anglican Bishop of Johannesburg.

Dr. Reeves, a leading opponent of the government's apartheid policies, resigned his See in March after he was deported by the government last September for his activities on behalf of racial equality.

Ten names were submitted to the assembly and these were narrowed down to four, according to reports. None of these was an African. The deadlock was said to have resulted because of the refusal of 130 non-white delegates to accept any nominee they considered "unsympathetic to the non-whites".

The Assembly's failure to come to a decision now means that Dr. Reeves' successor will be chosen by Dr. Joost de Blank, Archbishop of Capetown and the other bishops of the Church.

Meanwhile, in a speech last week at the Overseas Press Club in New York, Dr. Reeves declared that massive international pressures upon the present South African government offer the only alternative to violence there.

"There is no chance of a peaceful and orderly administration until the present policy is radically changed", he said. "Unless that happens, the







chances are that the sporadic outbursts of violence that have occurred in the past will increase in frequency and intensity... Though events are moving so swiftly in Africa that it would be unwise to rule out (a full-scale revolution) entirely, it is, I believe, a very remote possibility."

EPS, Geneva

#### Record Work Camp Programme Planned in 1961

(Geneva) - Some 1,200 Christian young people from all over the world will participate in the 53 work camps which will be sponsored by the Youth Department of the World Council of Churches in 36 countries this year.

In making the announcement, the Rev. Ralph W. Weltge, a secretary for work camps, noted that this is the largest programme ever conducted under WCC auspices since the camps were started 15 years ago.

Mr. Weltge said about 1,100 young people took part in the 46 camps conducted in 30 countries last year.

The Protestant, Orthodox, and Anglican youth, who will serve without pay for an average of four weeks, will dig foundations and lay bricks for schools, houses, chapels and refugee centres. They will build roads, plant trees, help in shipping relief commodities to distressed areas, and serve in hospitals and homes for the mentally ill and aged.

Among the work camps will be one on the island of Lan Tao in Hong Kong, where the volunteers will engage in construction work for a dope addiction rehabilitation centre of the Hong Kong Christian Welfare and Relief Council.

Another group will work in Hildesheim, Germany, where the Inner Mission of the Evangelical Church in Germany maintains a ministry to gypsies and the homeless. The volunteers will provide recreational facilities and will clear the land on which a school will later be built for gypsy children.

Still another group will work under the direction of the local Catholic priest in Noisy-le-Grand, near Paris, where the well-known Abbé Pierre has established temporary housing facilities for the aged and unemployed. The camp will engage in construction work at the site, where some 250 families and more than 1,000 children are living.

In all, 26 camps will be held in 14 countries in Europe and the Middle East; 11 will be conducted in as many Asiatic nations; four are scheduled in Africa, and the remaining 12 will be held in North and South America, including seven in the United States.

The campers range in age between 19 and 30. Each camp numbers between 20 and 30 persons and is, as far as possible, international, inter-racial and interdenominational in character.

"An ecumenical work camp aims to bring together a group of young Christians of many different backgrounds to live together as a Christian community and to work on a project where their help is needed", Mr. Weltge said. "In so doing, the young people learn to know and understand better the ideas, customs, beliefs and national and church backgrounds of other youth."





A typical camp programme includes an average of 36 hours manual work each week, daily worship, discussions on topics of current interest, Bible study, recreation, excursions, and meetings with members of the local community.

Ecumenical work camps began shortly after World War II in an effort to reconcile persons of various nationalities and to enable Christian young people to participate in the post-war reconstruction of Europe. The number of camps has increased from six in 1948 to 27 in 1953, and to 53 for the current year.

EPS, Geneva

#### Letter on Laos Sent to Geneva Conference

(Geneva) - Dr. O. Frederick Nolde has suggested that the Laos conference convened in Geneva should be able to come to an agreement on a provisional government for Laos "free from the pressures of partisan forces on either side..."

Dr. Nolde, who is director of the Commission of the Churches on International Affairs (CCIA), made the point in a letter sent to the heads of the conference, Mr. Andrei A. Gromyko, Soviet Foreign Minister, and Lord Home, British Foreign Secretary.

The letter acknowledged "the complexity of the Laotian situation" and the fact that "the competing interests that play into it do not make your task an easy one to accomplish". It added:

"Nevertheless, I venture to reflect the widely-held conviction that agreement should be attainable on a provisional government free from the pressures of partisan forces on either side of our unhappily divided world.

"With even a meagre beginning of stability, the way should be open for the people of Laos and the government of their choice to move responsibly in the international community without recrimination from powerful governments which have hitherto been seeking to impose their control. Any economic or material assistance that may be needed should, if at all possible, be mediated through the United Nations."

The CCIA is a joint agency of the World Council of Churches and the International Missionary Council. Copies of the letter were also sent to the heads of the 12 other delegations attending the conference.

EPS, Geneva

#### Pacific Area Churches Seek Closer Cooperation

(Malua, West Samoa) - The first conference of churches and missions in the Pacific Area has concluded with a series of recommendations designed to bring churches of the area into a closer relationship.

The thirty participants at the seven-day meeting called for an exchange of pastors of participating churches and cooperation in both secondary and seminary-level education. Specifically, they suggested the establishment of a central theological college in the Pacific area.

The conference appointed a six-man committee to carry forward the studies and discussions begun at the conference.





An announcement said "the need for such common enterprise has been underlined by a new realization of the extent of the unfinished evangelistic task in the Pacific area". As a result of the conference, "the members are convinced that the way to closer cooperation and shared activity is now much nearer".

EPS, Geneva

200 Will Attend WCC Migration Conference

EMBARGO: for  
release May 27, 1961

(Geneva) - Some 200 church experts in the field of migration will attend an international conference on the churches' responsibilities concerning international migration, June 11-16, at Leysin, Switzerland, near Geneva.

The conference will be held under the auspices of the World Council of Churches. It is the first such conference ever arranged by the WCC and is the outcome of three years of discussion, study and preparation.

Delegates will come from 75 of the World Council's member churches in 30 countries of Asia, Africa, Australasia, Europe, North America and Latin America. In addition there will be observers from 14 governments and a number of intergovernmental and non-governmental agencies and from non-member churches, including the Roman Catholic Church.

Dr. Franklin Clark Fry, New York, chairman of the World Council's policy-making Central Committee, will chair the meeting and present the opening address.

Speakers from observer groups will include M. Felix Schnyder, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees; Mr. Marcus Daly, director of ICEM (Intergovernmental Committee for European Migration); Mr. Francis Blanchard, assistant director general of the International Labour Office; and Mr. J.J. Norris, president of the International Catholic Migration Commission.

Four working parties will be formed to consider the witness of the churches concerning migration, the service of the churches to the migrant, the impact of migration on the life of the churches, and the migration problems of Africans and Asians as they affect Christian service.

Topics under discussion are expected to include problems presented by the large scale immigration of Puerto Ricans to the United States and of West Indians to Great Britain. The conference will also examine the influx of Japanese nationals to Latin America and of migration within the continents of Europe, Asia and Africa.

It is also expected to take a hard look at the immigration policies of various "receiving countries" such as the USA, Canada, Australia and New Zealand.

At the concluding session it will draw up a series of statements and recommendations to be submitted to the World Council's Third Assembly, November 18 - December 6, New Delhi, India.

EPS, Geneva





Dane to Lead Million Dollar Refugee Project in India

(Calcutta) - The Rev. Johannes Krohn, of the Danish Lutheran National Church and Rural Dean of West Zealand, has arrived here to take up his appointment as director of the Bengal Refugee Service for which the World Council of Churches is seeking to raise \$1,000,000.

This is the largest single refugee project that the churches have so far sponsored. Calcutta has an estimated 3,000,000 refugees who fled there from East Pakistan following the partition of the Indian sub-continent. It has been described as "the worst single refugee problem" anywhere in the world today.

The programme is planned to embrace health and social service programmes, community development schemes, training for jobs, and the setting up of a centre where 500 refugee students attending Calcutta University will have facilities to study away from the shacks which are their homes.

Mr. Krohn, who will recruit his own staff for the project, was born in 1908. He served as a missionary in India for nearly ten years. His wife, who is a state-registered nurse trained in Britain, was born in India where she lived for 20 years.

Mr. Krohn first left Denmark in 1938 to become a missionary in India. At the outbreak of World War II he was elected director of the High School and Teachers' Seminary at Tairabani where there were 600 students. Despite serious financial and other difficulties he worked at Tairabani as the only missionary in the district throughout the whole of the war period. He was also a member of the executive committee of the Danish-Norwegian-United States Santal Mission.

The Krohns have two children. The family returned to Denmark in 1947 and since then Mr. Krohn has been pastor of the Lutheran Church at Finderup. In 1957 he was elected Rural Dean of West Zealand which has 33 congregations and 27 pastors.

Mr. Krohn has been appointed director of the Bengal Refugee Service for two years. The project, which was initiated by Church World Service in New York and is now supported by agencies related to the World Council of Churches and the Lutheran World Federation in Geneva, is under the direction of the National Christian Council of India and a special board which it has created to supervise the venture. EPS, Geneva

Methodist Schools Nationalized in Cuba

(New York) - Twenty-two Methodist schools in Cuba have been nationalized by the Cuban government, the Methodist Board of Missions has learned.

The seizure was in accordance with the recent decree of the Castro régime nationalizing private schools. Among those taken over was the new Candler University in Havana. The 22 schools had an enrolment capacity of 5,000 students.

The Board of Missions learned of the nationalization in a telephone call to "reliable Methodist contacts in Cuba", according to an announcement. It was not learned, however, whether two specialized schools - the Agricultural and Industrial School at Mayari and the Union Evangelical Seminary (interdenominational) at Matanzas - were nationalized.





Board officials said latest reports indicate the Methodist Church in Cuba is continuing its work of worship, evangelism and religious education through the Sunday schools. Dispensaries are also reported to be continuing their medical services.

In a report received by the Board of Missions in March, it was learned that Cuban Methodists had succeeded in reaching, and in some cases surpassing, goals set in 1960 for "Advance" programme. Instead of 100 lay preachers, 300 were recruited. From many applicants for two-year missionary service, 50 were selected. (See EPS No. 10)

A Board of Missions spokesman said: "Even though American missionaries have voluntarily retired from Cuba, the Methodist Church has carried on its programme. Reports have come from the Sierra Maestra district and other areas indicating enthusiasm and growth in the evangelistic programme of the church. Methodists who know and love the Cuban Church give thanks that the Advance programme was developed by the Cuba Conference at a time when the conference would soon need to conduct its affairs under its own leadership. Methodists in the United States have maintained in every way possible the bonds of fellowship and love with their Cuban brethren, and this spirit has been reciprocal."

The Methodist Church in Cuba has a membership of 10,200 (full and preparatory) and a Sunday school enrolment of 11,600. There are 57 ministers and 126 churches.

Roman Catholic schools have also been closed down as a result of the government's decision to nationalize all private schools.

Fidel Castro, in a speech in Havana, stated that a law would soon forbid all foreign Roman Catholic priests to stay in Cuba; however, authorizations would be granted to priests standing for the revolution.

Sr. Castro in the same speech said that Spanish "Falangist" priests could pack their suitcases. All but one-third of the island's priests are of Spanish origin.

It was reported last week by Havana radio that "approximately 2,000 Roman Catholic priests and nuns" have started submitting their applications to leave Cuba. These presumably were religious of Spanish origin.

The radio said that although the Castro régime had announced it would not permit "counter-revolutionary foreign priests" to remain in the country, it had also stated that "those whose conduct was not counter-revolutionary would be allowed to carry out their functions in the country". It charged that the priests and nuns seeking to leave the country were doing so by order of "high clergy...in connivance with imperialists and the international counter-revolution".

It has also been reported that an unspecified number of priests and bishops who had been arrested during the battles at the end of April have been released. However, the Roman Catholic Church is still without news of several of those arrested, and reports that many monasteries are under militia control.

EPS, Geneva

#### Pope Asks War on Poverty

(Rome) - The Roman Catholic Church will call upon its members to unite in a world-wide attack on hunger and poverty as a fundamental moral duty which "no living person can evade".





This is the gist of a new major Catholic encyclical on social problems, the third in a 70-year series. It has been described as "the most important document" yet written by Pope John XXIII.

The pontiff in a speech last week on the anniversary of the encyclical letter *Rerum Novarum* issued by Pope Leo XIII in 1891, which has been called the "Magna Carta" of Roman Catholic social principles, confirmed that the new encyclical is ready and will be published within a few weeks.

EPS, Geneva

#### Russian Orthodox Leader Cites Desire for Unity

(Geneva) - A leader of the Russian Orthodox Church said last week that by its application for membership in the World Council of Churches his church expressed its "desire for the unity of all who confess Jesus Christ as the true God..."

Bishop Nikodim, head of the Office of Foreign Relations of the Moscow Patriarchate, writing in *Neue Zeit*, an East Berlin daily published by the Christian Democratic Union party, said the bid also "expressed the wish of the Russian Church to strengthen the fellowship between Christians as brethren in the faith, realizing that the whole of mankind with its different races all over the world is created of one blood".

Bishop John, Russian Orthodox Exarch of Central Europe whose See is in East Berlin, in another article in *Neue Zeit* said that it is hoped that membership in the Council would provide "the ecumenical fellowship, through conversations, personal contacts and theological discussions which would enable Christians to get to know one another better, and (lead to) the stage where they can share their witness and their service... testifying for God and our Lord Jesus Christ. This witness and service", he added, "I consider to be obligations in the cause of world peace."

The application continued to evoke widespread comment last week from church press in Europe and the United States.

*Réforme*, an independent French Protestant weekly, said membership of the Russian Church in the WCC would represent "a victory of the Holy Spirit rather than a manoeuvre on the part of Premier Khrushchev". This victory is all the more important", it said, "because it gives cause to hope that other churches within the Communist bloc will enter the World Council in the not-too-distant future".

It added that membership would remove two of the objections most often levelled against the ecumenical movement: 1. that it is an anti-Communist movement, "as if that were the role of the churches"; and 2. that it is a crypto-Roman Catholic movement. "In fact", it said, "with the parallel candidatures of the two great Pentecostalist churches (for WCC membership) the Roman Catholic Church is isolated, holding aloof from a step which it sometimes seems to want to take, but which it is always prevented from taking by its tradition and its doctrinal sectarianism".

(The Iglesia Pentecostal de Chile has applied for membership. The Mission Iglesia Pentecostal in Chile is in correspondence with the WCC concerning membership.)





The article concludes: "At a time when so many international political conferences are breaking down, when the United Nations has become a propaganda arena and when the cold war merely pauses for an instant in order to resume harder than before, it is an extraordinary fact that the Church, despite its divisions, its weaknesses and its lack of courage, is still the only place where men can meet one another. It is indeed the universal People of God."

Le Sillon, a monthly publication of the Old Catholic Church in Switzerland, declared that "the admission of the Russian Church to the World Council, which will undoubtedly be followed by the admission of other churches, would be an ecumenical success in the fullest sense of the word. The World Council...would assume a genuinely ecumenical dimension which would be as beneficial to its membership as it would to Orthodoxy," it said.

Although the application is bound to create "political speculations", it said, considerations of ecumenical fellowship are of much greater importance because "what is concerned here is not the spirit of the world, but the spirit of faith".

The French Roman Catholic publication Informations Catholiques Internationales in a lengthy story on the application commented that the membership of the Russian Church, which it termed "the most important of those churches not yet belonging to the World Council", could "only be profitable to both parties".

"The Church of Moscow can emerge at last from its long isolation and establish living contact with other Christian communions", it wrote. "The World Council will be changed by the presence in its fold of the Russian Orthodox Church (as) until now it has looked a little too much like a pan-Protestant movement..."

With the application, the journal noted, "only the autocephalous Orthodox Churches behind the Iron Curtain remain outside of relations with the World Council." "One can expect that they will soon follow the example of Moscow", it said, adding that already Patriarch Justinian Marina of the Orthodox Church of Rumania has announced he will send observers to the World Council's Third Assembly, New Delhi, India, November 18 - December 6.

Two major US publications of Christian opinion - one Roman Catholic and the other Protestant - also greeted the announcement.

The Christian Century, "an undenominational weekly" has written: "The acceptance of the Russian Church into the World Council will not only help to heal divided Christendom, but will also acclaim for the Christians of Russia and the rest of the world a Christ who transcends political divisions."

It added that while "some Christians will view the application ... with suspicion and will make it the occasion for criticism of the World Council ... (this) will be regrettable."

Commonweal, a national Roman Catholic weekly published by laymen, called the move "another large step closer to unity" and "a measure of the extraordinary progress of the ecumenical movement".

"The importance of this development can hardly be exaggerated", it said. "The admission ... will permit valuable communication and co-operation between Christian leaders of the West and those of the Soviet Union. It will almost certainly have an effect on the isolation and



nationalism which have hitherto characterized the Russian Orthodox Church. Not least, it will mean that the 'divided Christians' spoken of sorrowfully by Patriarch Alexis (head of the Russian Orthodox Church) will have moved another large step closer to unity. Without forgetting or minimizing the difficulties ... it is impossible not to be moved and heartened by the Russian Orthodox decision."

EPS, Geneva

### In Brief

An association to promote study and exchange of views on Christianity, especially as it is related to the Indian environment, has been formed with headquarters in Jabalpur. Named the Indian Christian Theological Association, the new organization's activities will include study conferences and the encouragement of theses on theological subjects. Its membership is open to any Christian theological institution or individual.

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The American Lutheran Church (ALC) has appealed for \$75,000 to aid the church's disaster-stricken mission in Madagascar. Funds will be used to repair hospitals, schools, churches, and missionary homes damaged in recent tornados.

\* \* \*

The Armenian Apostolic (Orthodox) Church has announced plans to build its first theological seminary and first full-time parochial school in the United States. The seminary will be built at a site still to be chosen in California. In the past Armenian clergy have come from overseas or they have trained in US seminaries of the Protestant Episcopal Church.

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Both the American and the British and Foreign Bible Societies have reported new highs in distribution of Scriptures in 1960. The US group established a record of 23,210,485 pieces for the year distributed in 75 countries in 277 languages and 36 "characters" such as Braille and Arabic. The figure was a 32 per cent gain over the previous year. The British and Foreign Bible Society reported an increase of 1,500,000 over 1959 for a total of 9,250,000 of the number of copies of the Scriptures circulated.

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Protestant youth groups in Bochum, West Germany have begun a fund-raising drive for the construction of an agricultural training centre at Lake Victoria, East Africa, sponsored by the "Bread for the World" campaign of the Evangelical Church in Germany (EKD). The centre will be used to train young Africans in the use of modern machinery and farming techniques.

\* \* \*

The Netherlands Reformed Church will send 22 missionaries to new mission stations in the West African countries of Senegal, Ghana, Nigeria and Cameroon. An announcement said the missionaries will include doctors and youth workers, as well as pastors. They will be assigned in co-operation with the Paris and Basel (Switzerland) Evangelical Missionary Societies and the young churches in the four countries.

EPS, Geneva